Walter is represented in a sitting attitude, with the ample folds of a Scottish plaid hanging loosely about him, and his favourite hound, Maida, at his feet. The work is of Carrara marble, and is highly spoken of.

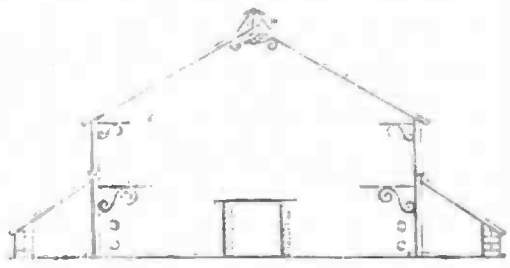
ELY CATHEDRAL RESTORED.

GREAT progress has been lately made with the restoration of Ely cathedral, although the dean and canons have no funds appropriated to repairs, and have therefore defrayed the very considerable expense of the restorations out of their own private means, except where aided by individual benefaction. From a communication to *The Times* of Saturday last, we obtain the following particulars:—

The alterations and improvements have been very extensive. Since the accession of the present dean more than forty windows have been opened and restored. The heavy combination of plaster and wood work which concealed the tomb of Cardinal de Lidanborgh, the tabernacle work of Bishop Alcock, and a considerable portion of the eastern window, has been removed. The tomb itself has been restored, and other works are in contemplation. The vaulting of the nave and side aisles of the east of the great lantern has been scraped and cleaned, and where wanting restored. The Purbeck marble shafts of the triforium and clerestory, which were disfigured with paint, have been repolished, as also the great marble piers, and the corbels and string-courses. Decayed and broken portions have been replaced with Purbeck marble. The restorations are supposed to be preparatory to an extension of the choir as far as the great lantern, and to an entire change in its arrangements. The tomb of Bishop Alcock has been restored, and the chapel itself cleaned and partially restored. But the most important of the new restorations are at the west end, erected by Bishop Riddell, at the close of the 12th century. The northern portion had fallen and the southern been left in a ruinous state in consequence of a subsidence of the great western tower, which is presumed to have been occasioned by the addition of the octagon portion of it at the close of the 14th century. Nearly every portion of this end of the church was in a state of ruin or dilapidation; but the whole has been restored and opened to the church. It is proposed to add an appropriate painted ceiling, from designs already prepared. As soon as funds can be provided, it is proposed to restore the ancient chapel of St. Catherine, which opens into the newly restored transept. At the east end of the cathedral the southern pinnacle, which was never finished, is in process of erection at the expense of Mr. Hope. The eastern cross, and the crockets, which it is proposed to put on the gable, are to be restored at the expense of Lady Mildred Hope. The dean has restored the chapel of Prior Crouden. Two painted windows have been placed in the cathedral, the gift of the Rev. Edward Sparke, and others are to be similarly adorned. The communication does not name the architect.

CONSTRUCTION OF GREENHOUSES.*

A THOROUGHLY good, practically useful greenhouse is a constant source of pleasure, and indeed profit, to the possessor; but unfortunately, in very many instances, either from erroneous plans, or an extravagant and needless waste of material, it is made as nearly the opposite as though such had been the intention of those who contrived it. Exorbitant charges and bad construction have done more injury to gardeners and gardening than may be readily conceived. The house we should prefer for general purposes is one which has a span-roof, standing east and west, in an elevated dry situation, sheltered somewhat from the north-east wind, but by no means surrounded with trees; and to explain our ideas more fully, and render them perfectly tangible, we shall call in the aid of the engraver. The sectional figure given below represents a house of considerable size, sufficient for the growth of a large collection of plants. Its length is forty feet, entire breadth twenty, and the height to the ridge plate ten feet. The roof in this is also a fixture—that is, the sashes are made to remain stationary: the advantages of which are manifold. In the first place, lighter material is sufficient, as all the wear and tear is removed; the frames and glass therefore last longer, requiring little or no repairs for many years, beyond the annual coat of paint which these places should always receive. A considerable amount of labour is also saved, and the general appearance of the erection greatly improved; the ventilation being effected in this case by an ingenious contrivance, invented by Mr. Farmer, greenhouse-builder, Newington Causeway. It is thus managed; a space is left open between the open rail of the sashes and the ridge plate on either side, for the entire length of the house; over this, at a slight elevation outside, is placed a protection board, to throw off rain, &c., while descending from it to the rail of the



lights is a valve-board on either side. These boards, by being hung on pivots, are easily drawn up by means of a cord and pulley, and thus egress for heated air is instantly obtained in the most proper place for ensuring a thorough yet moderate current of fresh air from the open lights in front. Along the sides of this house are shewn dwarf pits, the most appropriate receptacles for small plants, and here an important improvement presents itself. Instead of wasting nearly half the entire cost of the erection in useless brick walls, it is proposed to support the house by continuing the upright timbers through the sill down to the ground level, where they enter a plate laid on a footing of bricks. These stanchions will be found equally as secure and lasting as a nine-inch wall; and in front of them, proceeding from the under side of the sill, are the lights, which project about three feet to form the pits before spoken of. An interior connection existing between them and the main body of the house, beneath the front shelves, in consequence of there being no wall, the apparatus intended to supply the required heat to the house, by occupying its usual position, will at the same time, and at no greater expense, impart a sufficient warmth to the atmosphere of these pits, while the gardener will have the very great advantage of attending to his young nurslings in bad weather, without the trouble or danger to be feared from the sudden rush of cold air consequent on opening the lights on the outside. The cost of the necessary lights and framework for the pits is considerably less than the expense of a wall; and thus money is saved—the additional standing of the very best and most useful description positively gained for nothing—the proper strength of the house left unimpaired—and the general appearance of the erection, both externally and internally, greatly improved.

We present this plan to the notice of the public, feeling convinced that its many advantages will be certainly seen and appreciated. The paths, stages, shelves, and tanks for containing the water collected from the roofs of all horticultural erections, should be formed of slate, as we find it to be the cheapest and most durable material that can be employed; it is easily cleaned, does not become green from the moisture which surrounds it, and, if of good quality, will last for ages: for floors and narrow shelves or stages, slabs of half an inch in thickness are sufficient. These cost, with the fixing, from fivepence to sixpence per square foot; but for wider stages, intended to carry large pots, it will be advisable to have the slates fully an inch thick, to ensure a proportionate strength. The arrangement of the stages must be determined by the taste or convenience of the proprietor. In our figure the principal one is flat, and placed in the centre of the house, having a walk all around it; on the other side of which, and next the glass, is a smaller shelf, of about two feet in width, and over this, at the pitch of the roof, a still smaller one, for young plants which require to be kept close to the light. The centre stage is supported by two walls of four-inch brickwork, running lengthwise of the house; and if inch-slates are used, no other bearers will be necessary; and by leaving the ends open, access is had to the under part of the stage, which forms an excellent store for roots in winter, and sundry articles at all times. The other shelves are supported by iron brackets, which have a light appearance, and cause no obstruction in getting to the front pits. The cost of a house of the size and description of that mentioned is about 12*l*.

Leaving the particular mode of heating to the discretion of the owner, we particularly recommend hot water as the medium. The price of four-inch iron pipe, which is most commonly employed, is about 3*s.* 6*d.* per yard, to which is to be added the expense of fixing. The gutter pipes made by Messrs. Burbridge and Healy are very good, but are rather more expensive. They are made in two sizes; the larger are charged 3*s.* the length of nine feet, and the smaller 2*s.*, exclusive of fixing. Tanks of iron, slate, or even wood, may be employed where a command of atmospheric moisture is desired, and for bottom heat they are unsurpassed. On the subject of boilers we scarcely know how to advise. The whole of them appear to us excessively dear, and we have expectations of shortly causing an alteration which may possibly surprise some of those who at present are making fortunes in the line. That form which is most economical of fuel must necessarily be the best, and this is the great objection to all the conical-shaped boilers. They do not burn freely without being fed with superior fuel, and much of their heat is lost by radiation from the sides; otherwise they are the cheapest, inasmuch as the expense of setting is saved; they are easily fixed or removed, and are cleanly in their operation. A great deal of the mystery with which dealers are anxious to surround themselves must shortly be removed, and their prices brought down to a more reasonable level.

* From the "Florist's Journal" for July. Published by Groombridge and Sons, London.

EXCAVATIONS AT STAMFORD.

DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT REMAINS.

THE curiosity of the inhabitants of Lincolnshire, in the vicinity of Stamford, has been much excited of late, according to the local papers, by the discovery of various traces of the former existence of an extensive religious house, which is known, historically, to have once occupied the site of the railway excavations now in progress there. Some portions of an arch, of narrow space, which has probably formed part of a subterranean passage, have been discovered; and large pieces of stone were of late continually dug up; but the chief objects of popular curiosity which had hitherto presented themselves, were pieces of stained glass, stone coffins, Danish or Saxon coins, and other articles. These were found near a building called "The Nuns;" and one of the coffins contained a skeleton in a state of great perfection. Several skulls and other human bones were then dug up. These remains of other days, says a local paper, have been found on the site where once stood the Austin Friary, of which scarcely a vestige is now to be seen, unless the tenements standing there were built of stone taken from the Friary ruins—a supposition which is at least doubtful.

Human skeletons and antique reliques have frequently been dug up in this vicinity. In 1711, a Mr. Richard Feast procured leave of the then Earl of Exeter to dig for stone out of the ruins, for the purpose of building a barn there; at which time, besides what stone sufficed for the barn, he also took up as much as built a court wall in his yard at Sempringham Hall, or St. Peter's hill, where he then lived. Some of these stones were curiously carved, representing birds, beasts, fruit, and flowers. At the same time one of the workmen picked up two ancient seals. Not long after this some excavations were made for a

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